Maryland Primary Care Office

The Maryland Primary Care Office (PCO) is federally funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) to promote federal, state, local, and private collaboration to expand comprehensive, community based primary care services for medically underserved populations. This is achieved by addressing five grant Program Expectations:

- 1. Organizational Effectiveness/Fostering Collaboration
- 2. Technical Assistance to Organizations/Communities Wishing to Expand Access to Primary Care for Underserved Populations
- 3. Assessment of Needs/Sharing of Data
- 4. Workforce Development for the NHSC and Safety Net/Health Center Network
- 5. Shortage Designation Applications and Update

Grant Programs

PCO administers two federally funded grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):

- 1. Primary Care Office Grant: The purpose of this five year grant is to manage or influence access to primary care services through the development of systems of care for the underserved by achieving the five program expectations listed above. The PCO's work is directly linked to the mission of HRSA and three of its Bureaus: the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr), the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), and the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment & Service (BCRS).
- 2. State Loan Repayment Program Grant: The purpose of this two year grant is a collaborative effort among the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to provide practitioners an opportunity to practice their profession in a community that lacks adequate primary and/or mental health care services, while also paying off their educational loans.

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